

Times.10

Your Magazine of Choice

September 2000, Vol. 8 Number 1

Back
into the
Future

Pages 8 & 9

Identity

Pg's 14, 20, 42

Health

Pg's 22, 26, 36

Fun

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Times .10

Your Magazine of Choice

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September 2000
Edmonton, Alberta**

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Commentary

By Managing Editor
Dennis Cambly

What is Stockwell Day is Really Up To?

"...His record on corporate welfare: During the three years Mr. Day was Alberta's treasurer, taxpayers coughed up more than \$400-million to cover bad loans and guarantees to businesses. Hmmm: that works out to nearly \$370,000 of lost taxpayers' money every day, seven days a week."

Warren Kinsella
National Post

Stockwell Day says that he never mixes his own personal beliefs in religion with his politics yet in the Alberta Legislature he goes back to his bible and says: "to procreate is a God-given responsibility." He must have missed the sex education classes since he thinks people only have sex to procreate. Then again, coming from a tiny little rural village where people still run around with pointy little white hats, and burn crosses, he couldn't have had much time for good old-fashioned sex. Thus the big condom companies will certainly not want a man around who has no use for sex outside of procreation.

Stockwell Day would not know what to do as a family man if one of his sons came to him and said he was gay. As quoted in a recent *Vue Weekly* article Stockwell said: "I appreciate the question but I don't want to discuss that". You can find the answer to that question in columns from Michael Phair and Murray Billett on Stockwell Day's Human Rights policy in this issue of *Times .10*.

Gordon Laird writes the following quote from Stockwell Day: "As a Christian, I acknowledge the lordship of Jesus Christ over the whole universe," explained Day in 1998, in response to a gaffe made against single-parent families. "I believe that the Bible is the infallible word of God and every word in it, cover to cover, is true." With this literalist belief in the Bible comes some unusual ideas that rarely gather press. As one educator made notes in an informal presentation Day made in Red Deer during 1997, the Treasurer claimed the following things to be true:

- 1) The earth is 6,000 years old
- 2) Adam and Eve were real people
- 3) Humans and dinosaurs co-existed; and
- 4) There's as much evidence for creation as evolution.

There goes every scientific discovery known to the world and Newton could not have been

sitting under an apple tree! Stockwell Day has not discovered that there are over 5 Billion people on our humble little planet that do not believe in his lordship. Now if you do not believe in these Four Principles of Stockwell Day, then I will join you as the Alliance (born again Reform) Party, gets prepared to move us off the planet or move us to Hitler style re-location centres for extermination.

Stockwell Day takes credit for putting the Alberta budget and debt in order. Really! Did I miss something or did the price of oil go through the ceiling creating untold billions of dollars in revenue for Alberta. Along with his good friend Klein they slashed jobs, buried Albertans in more hidden taxes, nearly destroyed the Health Care System and even blew up a hospital in Calgary to prove it. Through it all though they found tens of millions of dollars to fund private christian schools in our beloved Alberta where only "perfectly normal Albertans" would notice. People outside of Alberta haven't got the entire picture on this joker and his "fiscal" policies. Read Howard Sapers column to get the real list of the "fiscally responsible" Stockwell day.

Most Canadians are aware of what Vanilla will do to your brain if you drink it right from the bottle. If you have never done anything of this sort, or perhaps never inhaled, then take a look at the 75 Platitudes from the Alliance/Reform Party. This is the stuff that Stockwell Day is made up of in real life. You must be warned that before you read them, get out the Tylenol, as will have the same feeling as though you had drank a full bottle of Vanilla.

"Our vision includes peace, order and good government; true equality of citizens and provinces; minimal government intrusion in people's lives; respect for the important role of families; and fiscal prudence tempered with compassion..." (Alliance/Reform Vision). Wrong, a "Vision" is when John F. Kennedy said; "Before this decade is out, we will send a man to the moon and safely return him to the earth..."

Now, read the closing words and find the truth, as to why the Alliance/Reform Party "never" answer any questions with depth, intelligence and thought.

"It indicates a lack of deep insight into historical developments when today people who call themselves folkish make a great point of assuring us over and over that they do not plan to engage in 'negative criticism', but only in 'constructive work...' (Adolf Hitler)

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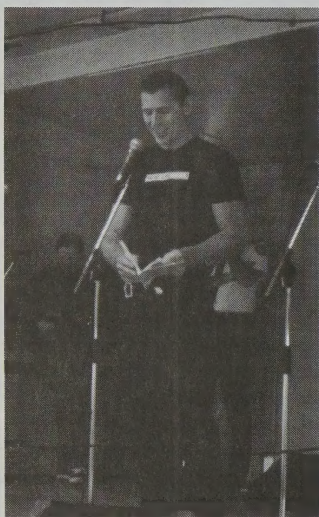
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The Dangerously Talented Mr. Stockwell Day

Over my many years of involvement in Edmonton's Gay and Lesbian community I had the opportunity to meet with Stockwell Day on many occasions. He is a frighteningly impressive, professional who's political savvy shines through in every word spoken. His "Day Agenda" is cloaked in his magic as result of his "appeal" and his new and candy coated moderate approach. **DO NOT BE FOOLED!** All fair-minded Canadians must monitor his slippery approach to the public. In his speech to the Alliance convention Day spoke of his Freedom Train, Well let me assure you that Mr. Days Freedom Train has a baggage car! I welcome anyone to do a historical review of Day's track record of homophobia and religious imposition on our community. Check it out folks, the Freedom trains baggage car overflows with extremism, homophobia, anti poor and half-truths. In one meeting Day told me that being gay is a choice? Like I chose my blues! Not just his words but his actions have proved that he is homophobic, his much-touted track record confirms that. Not once, in any way did he support any Gay and Lesbian issue he **FOUGHT** us every step of the way. He does not practice Politics of Respect as he

suggests in speech to the Alliance, quite the contrary.

Stockwell Day led the charge against the Gay and Lesbian Community during the Delwin Vriend Supreme Court case. We were in the eye of the judicial hurricane together. He showed his colours clearly, he prevent us from fostering children in the Ms. T case. He was on the "Fence Building"



committee to ensure legislative fences were built to prevent gay and lesbians from attaining the same level of equality enjoyed by other Albertans.

Stockwell Day and his Alliance party seem to believe that the fundamental issue of human rights should be put to a ballot. Where would Canada be today as a nation, if a vote were cast for and against minorities? All this said quite frankly, I am not surprised in the least to see him rise to lead the "Born Reform Again" party known as the Alliance. Mr. Day's views and the views of his party should be well known by all of you. The Alliance Party and those who are running are as far right as Canada has ever seen.

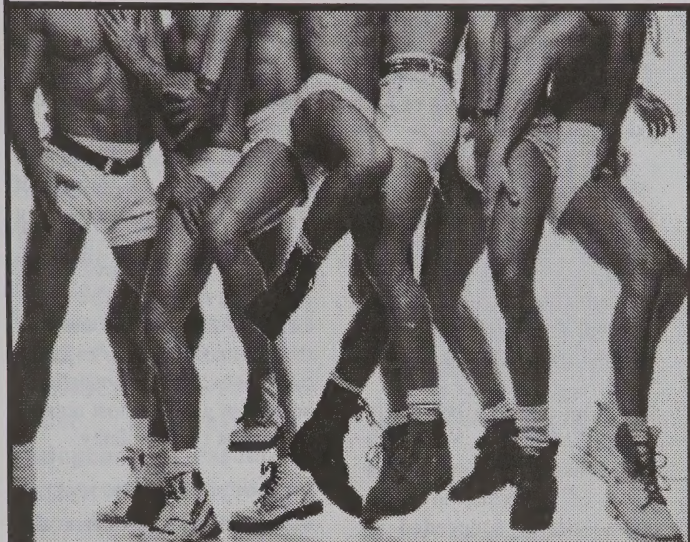
Right now in Calgary there are two Alliance members slugging it out for their nomination. In a written letter to the members of his constituency Rob Anders M.P in Calgary West, stated that his opponent, current Tory MLA Jocelyn Burgener is NOT anti -gay and anti abortion enough! He is courting the religious right and all the anti abortion advocates and their supporters to bolster his support. These are the kind of right wing homophobic people that Day is attracting to the new Alliance Party.

Do not think for a moment that our hard fought for legislative changes can't be taken away. Our federal legislation that recently brought our community more equality than we have ever seen could well be rescinded if Mr. Day and his right wing extremists ever get elected. No, that can't happen you say! To that I say "mule muffins" The Alliance party is quickly, bit by bit piece by piece eating up the Progressive Conservative Party. By doing so his Alliance party is growing and with that Day is moving the Alliance Party further to the right than any party in the history of Canada. I urge each of you to never support this party of extremes. I do urge each of you to not just vote against them, campaign against them, and support the candidate of your choice with a cheque and some of your time. As a member of this community, our future, our equality lies with the very decisions our supporters and we make at election time. Don't let our ambivalence and apathy undo what we have all worked so hard to attain.

Murray G. Billett

Past Director of Edmonton's
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- Basic HIV/AIDS (1st Wednesday of each month 1-3:30 pm)*
- Youth & HIV (September 14, 1-4:30 pm)
- HIV & Abuse: The Hidden Threat (September 5, 1-4:30 pm)
- Mental Health & HIV Risk (September 19, 1-4:30 pm)
- Women and HIV/AIDS Conference Summary (September 13, 1-5 pm)

*Please note that in order to enroll in any of our advanced courses you must have completed an introductory course in HIV/AIDS in the past two years. The cost of workshops is \$10.00 for the half day and \$20.00 for full day - which covers the cost of materials. Scholarships are available.

Watch for other workshop and in-service announcements in upcoming publications of Times 10

Back Into the Future:

Transphobia Is My Issue Too

By Warren J. Blumenfeld

Hi, I am a gay man and my name is Warren Blumenfeld, or as my friends affectionately like to call me, "Estelle Abrams"—honorary Jewish bisexual woman from Brooklyn. Seriously, though, Estelle embodies the feminine side of my soul—my joyous, playful self, the creative, spontaneous, sensitive spirit that I have come to treasure and genuinely love. But this wasn't always the case.

When I was quite young, long before I learned what was considered the "proper" rules of conduct, I naively introduced Estelle to the world. Others, I was quick to discover, feared and even despised her. Children called her names like "queer," "sissy," "fairy," "pansy," "faggot," "little girl," with an incredible vehemence and malice that I did not understand.

Adults hated her too. Soon after I introduced Estelle to my parents, they sent me to a child psychiatrist when I was only five years old and continuing over the next eight years, in their attempt to kill Estelle, to exorcise her in the hope of forever eliminating all contacts, all vestiges, all memory of her ever being a part of me.

All this taught me to cloak her from the sun's exposing rays, to keep her well concealed deep within my consciousness, to summons her only during those rare but precious moments of tranquil and safe solitude.

The forces that set out to kill Estelle—those societal battalions bent on destroying all signs of femininity in every male—nearly succeeded in coercing me into denouncing her, but through some power more potent than they, Estelle was victorious in fending off their attacks. Being mightier and more willful, she stayed with me through times of torment and times of treatment. Even when I began to lose trust and to doubt her, she never gave up on me.

The good news is that Estelle not only survived, but she thrives in me today. Each day I am alive, I thank her for the extraordinary gifts she gives to me. Her presence not only enriches me, but also gives special meaning to my life, and for that I am truly lucky.

Some have asked me, "What was that energy, that force

empowering Estelle to repel her would-be executioners?" Quite simply, it was a vision—a vision of social transformation articulated by feminists and later by early gay liberationists during Estelle's youth.

Earlier, much earlier, in the Middle Ages, the fairies - those men accused of same-sex eroticism were rounded up, bound, tossed on the ground as if kindling, and set ablaze igniting women accused of witchcraft who were secured above. Later, the reverse would be true. Catching the spark of feminist thought and theory, fairies joined together exploding conventional notions of gender, most notably definitions of masculinity.

In 1993, during the National March for Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Rights in Washington, D.C., I attended a reunion of the Gay Liberation Front, D.C., which, over twenty-three years prior, formed the leading edge of a movement rising like a phoenix from the ashes of the Stonewall Inn in New York City.

We held early meetings at Grace Church, the Washington Free Clinic in Georgetown, and All Souls Church on 16th Street, until we rented a brownstone on S Street, in Northwest for the establishment of a Gay Liberation Front living collective.

Meetings provided a space for gays, lesbians, and bisexual women and men to come together and put into practice what feminists had taught us—that the

"personal is indeed the political."

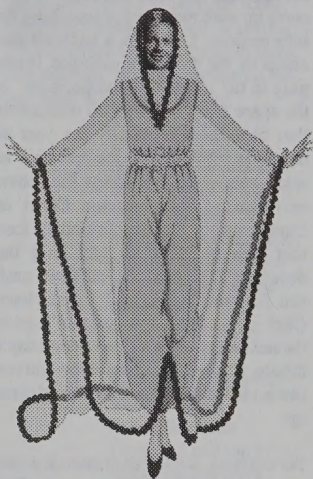
We laughed and we cried together. We shared our ideas and our most intimate secrets. We dreamed our dreams and laid our plans for a world free from all the deadly forms of oppression, and as we went along, invented new ways of relating.

For the men, we came to consciousness of how we had been stifled as males growing up in a culture that taught us to hate the woman within, that taught us that if we were to be considered worthy, we must be athletic, independent, assertive, domineering, competitive. That we must bury our emotions deep within the recesses of our souls.

Looking back over the years, as our visibility has increased, as our place within the culture has become somewhat more assured, much certainly has been gained, but also, something very precious has been lost. That early excitement, that desire, though by no means the ability—to fully "restructure" the culture, as distinguished from mere reform, seems now to lay dormant in many sectors of, at least, the gay male community.

I do remain hopeful, however, for I believe that bisexual women and men and transgenderists today are on the cutting edge of the discourse on gender, having

the greatest potential to bring us back into the future. A future in which the Estelles (and the Butches) everywhere will live freely, unencumbered by other's notions of behavior, one in which



the "feminine" and "masculine"—as well as all the qualities on the continuum in between—can live and prosper in us all.

So therefore I say, let us not work only toward lifting the ban against gay, lesbian, and bisexual people in the military, but let us also work toward lifting the ban against our transcending and obliterating the gender status quo.

Let us not limit our efforts to defeating homophobia, heterosexism, biphobia, and the many other categories of oppression, but let us also work toward conquering personal, institutional, and societal forms of transphobia and its

offshoot. What some of us have labeled "effemiphobia"—that insidious and dehumanizing fear and hatred of anything even hinting at the feminine in males, which is, as we all know, basically the fear and hatred of females.

Let us continue to work on issues around same-sex marriage and domestic partnership, but let us not fail to put efforts into strengthening a partnership between our masculine and feminine qualities making us all whole, integrated human beings.

If indeed it is true, as the old saying goes, that the fish is the last to see the water because it is so pervasive, then from our vantage point at the margins, we have a special opportunity. Indeed a responsibility, to serve as social commentators, as critics, exposing and highlighting the rigid gender roles that dampen and saturate our environment, and to challenge the culture to move forever forward and to grow.

This is my view of true and lasting liberation. I hope it is part of yours too.

Warren J. Blumenfeld
Editor, *Homophobia: How We All Pay the Price*
Editor, *International Journal of Sexuality and Gender Studies*
Co-Author with Diane Raymond, *Looking at Gay and Lesbian Life*

(Reprint permission granted, e-mail
blumenfeld@edu.umass.edu)

Capital City Politics



How to get the Facts on Stockwell Day

By Laurie Blakeman - Liberal MLA

Many of you are reacting to the news that Stockwell Day has been elected the new leader of the Alliance Party and many of you are concerned about Day's agenda at the federal level. Very soon after his election as leader, Day made it clear in an interview in *Fab* magazine that he would invoke the not-withstand clause should the Supreme Court rule in favour of same sex marriages.

Some of you have told me you're interested in getting information about what Day has said in the past about homosexual rights in this province. I can tell you that, as an MLA, I have sat across from Mr. Day and his colleagues as they have worked to limit the rights of same-sex couples by defining marriage in what I consider to be extremely narrow terms.

The good news is that all the debates on sexual orientation, the definition of marriage, and the Delwin Vriend decision is easy to access free-of-charge on the Internet. You simply go to the

Website - www.assembly.ab.ca - and click on the icon under Legislative Assembly Proceedings that says Hansard. You'll come up with two ways of searching for information. One is by a keyword and one is by the date. For example, if you plug in the words "Vriend decision" in the space that says "find all documents that contain" and specify the year of debate as 1998 in the space that says "in select year", you can access the debate surrounding the Supreme Court of Canada ruling. Simply click on the icon that lists the first hit and once the document has loaded, scroll down until you find the highlighted Vriend icon. Click on the red arrow and you'll go to the next mention of Vriend in that day's debate. Click on the green arrow and you can get to the next date that Vriend came up.

For example, one search of interest would use the words "fences committee". This refers to the Conservative government's committee that was supposed to build a legislative fence that would protect marriage - the union of a man and a woman - in this province. In particular, read the December 6, 1999 debate in which Day talks about his view of marriage. You can access this by punching in the date in the space that says "display Hansard for this date". Another search word that yields interesting results is Bill 202, the Marriage Amendment Act in the Spring 2000 legislative session. In this one, we hear the debate about the "traditional definition of marriage".

Using Hansard to find out what Day and his colleagues have said in the past helps forewarn you for what Stockwell Day's agenda will be in the future and in my opinion, you can never have too much information.

If you have any ideas or concerns on this or any other pieces of legislation, please call or write to me with them. As your representative, it is important that I have

a sense of what you are feeling on these issues. You can mail letters to

Laurie Blakeman, MLA Edmonton-Centre
10042 - 116 Street, Edmonton, AB
T5K 1V6
Phone 414-0743 Fax 414-0772
E-mail: blakeman@oanet.com



Give Your Head a Shake!

**By Michael Phair
Edmonton City Councillor**

Generally, when I hear people saying that the summer of 2000 was not very good—too cool, wet, cloudy and slow to arrive—I know that they are referring to the weather but I think of it as a very bleak 'political' summer.

A few months ago I wrote about my fears that Stockwell Day, then finance minister in Alberta, would probably be the Leader of the Alliance Party and Leader of the Official Opposition by fall. Unfortunately it appears that my political musings have come true. The unfolding of Mr. Day onto the national political stage was like watching a coronation and now we are being entertained by the reinvention (propaganda would be a better description) of the new, less strident Stockwell Day. It reminds me of

putting bad wine in a new bottle—the taste, color and aroma is still the same, only the label has changed. I am amazed at how savvy the re-making is—picture after picture of Mr. Day exercising, riding on the back of a motorcycle looking young, vigorous and wholesome. And when any criticism does appear it is about Mr. Day's 'moral' stand or position—which are devalued as neither really relevant to national political parties nor of great concern to Canadians! Of course what doesn't get talked about are the things that Canadians do think are important:

- Less than three months ago during his national leadership campaign, Mr. Day flew back to Edmonton so he could vote in favor of Bill 11—the privatization of health care!
- In 2001, the Province will move to a flat tax income system which significantly favors wealthy people to the disadvantage of the middle class.
- With no plans and no new programs to mitigate the growing income gap in Alberta under Mr. Day as treasurer, billions of surplus dollars are instead used to pay off debts (to the benefit of banks) while the number of children and families in poverty increase.
- While additional dollars have poured into agricultural programs and extensive water diversion initiatives, cities, where 85% of Albertans live, are slowly strangling because of huge reductions of provincial financial assistance under Mr. Day—there is a profound antipathy to people in cities.

And I have not even mentioned his profoundly narrow, and at times

undemocratic, social views!

Watching this summer of Canadian discontent draw to a close, I am still confronted by well-meaning people who believe that it is a good thing to have Stockwell Day now gone from Alberta and believe that Day will not get anywhere on the national scene. **Give your head a shake!** It is time for every reader of Times.10 to think this through and get a handle on the real state of national politics.

- The current Liberal government has a majority of only 5 or 6 seats. A loss of 5 seats will mean either a minority government or possibly a government formed by one of the other parties.
- If the Liberal party 'stumbles', or Canadians decide they want a change (remember Kim Campbell and the PC's), where are the votes likely to go—the New Democrats? The BQ? The PC's? I believe the only party that Canadians will see as a viable alternative will be the Alliance Party.
- There are no Reform/Alliance MP's east of Manitoba. Does anyone think that an Ontario governed by Mike Harris will elect no Alliance members in the next election?

For this issue of Times.10, I am not making any future prediction—however I will expand my views further in **give your head a shake**, part 2 of the October edition of Times.10.

(If you have any comments or concerns, contact Councillor Michael Phair at 426-1516 (office), 496-8113 (fax) or by e-mail

michael.phair@gov.edmonton.ab.ca)



Stockwell Day, the "Situational" Fiscal Conservative

By Howard Sapers - Liberal MLA

Consider the record:

- Stockwell Day presided over the largest one-year increase in program spending (\$2.012 billion) between 1998/99 and 1999/2000) of any Alberta Finance Minister since the mid 1980's;
- Stockwell Day brought in nearly \$3 billion in unbudgeted spending during his three years as Alberta's Treasurer, nearly \$2.3 billion more than his immediate predecessor who served over four years as Alberta's Treasurer;
- Stockwell Day brought in the largest unbudgeted spending bill (\$1.416 billion) of any Alberta Treasurer since 1986;
- Stockwell Day amended the Fiscal Responsibility Act within six months of its original

Continued on page 12

Stockwell Day, the "Situational" Fiscal Conservative

Continued from page 11

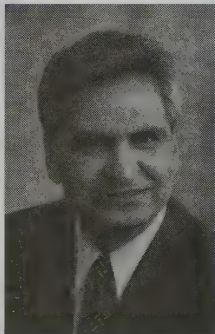
passage to permit the largest unbudgeted spending increase (\$1.416 billion) in Alberta since 1986;

- Stockwell Day underestimated the size of the budget surplus by an annual average of \$1.815 billion or 582% per year while he was Alberta's Treasurer;
 - Stockwell Day overspent by a cumulative \$2.227 billion during three years as Alberta's Treasurer, an average \$742 million of overspending per year;
 - Only 12% of Alberta's \$11.3 billion fiscal dividend was allocated towards tax cuts during Stockwell Day's tenure as Alberta's Treasurer;
 - Taxes increased by \$497 million during Stockwell Day's three years as Alberta's Treasurer;
 - Stockwell Day's 11% single rate tax scheme gave the middle 39% of Alberta tax filers earning between \$30,000 and \$70,000 per year an average tax cut of just 9%, while giving the top 1% of Alberta tax filers earning over \$150,000 per year an average tax cut of 18%;
 - Stockwell Day's 11% single rate tax scheme gave the middle 39% of Alberta tax filers earning between \$30,000 and
- Stockwell Day's 11% single rate tax scheme would have resulted in a tax increase of \$186.31 in 2001, \$189.21 in 2002, \$192.16 in 2003 and \$322.76 in 2004, for an Alberta taxpayer earning \$35,000 a year;
 - Stockwell Day's 11% single rate tax scheme would have resulted in a tax increase of \$177.31 in 2001, \$180.21 in 2002, \$183.16 in 2003, and \$379.76 in 2004, for an Alberta taxpayer earning \$50,000 a year;
 - Stockwell Day's 11% single rate tax scheme would have resulted in a tax increase of \$76.97 in 2001, \$98.61 in 2002, \$120.57 in 2003, and \$436.76 in 2004, for an Alberta taxpayer earning \$65,000 a year;
 - Alberta taxpayers were forced to fork over \$410 million or \$371,000 per day to fund losses on business loans and guarantees incurred over the three years that Stockwell Day was Alberta's Finance Minister; and
 - The Alberta government missed

\$70,000 per year 26% of the total tax cuts, while the top 4% of Alberta tax filers earning over \$100,000 received 31% of the total tax cuts;

202 of its performance targets over the three years that Stockwell Day was Alberta's Finance Minister.

With such a "tax and spend" record amassed here in Alberta, can Canadian taxpayers really afford to have Stockwell Day blow a gaping hole in the federal fiscal dividend? My advice to Canadians is to guard your "sweat soaked loonies" from the likes of Stockwell Day and the Canadian Alliance.



Just recently the government announced its appointments to this body and unfortunately, many of them have direct connections to private health care interests.

For example, the government appointed Dr. John Evans who currently sits on the Board of Directors of MDS Inc. MDS is a private health company that has some investments in HRG, a leading lobbyist for the expansion of private health care.

Don Mazankowski, the former federal Conservative cabinet member, was also appointed to the board. He currently sits on the Board of Directors of Great West Life, a Canadian company that offers private health insurance the United States.

The government has also appointed several people who have publicly advocated the increased privatization of health care. Dr. Brian Crowley is one of these individuals. He is currently the president of the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies, a think-tank that can only be described as the "Fraser Institute East."

Mr. Crowley publicly supported Bill 11 during the debate and has advocated nothing less than the full-scale privatization of health care.

The New Democrat Opposition have called on the government to require each of the individuals named to the Advisory Council to openly disclose all of their connections to private health care interests.

The nature of these appointments suggests that the Premier's Agenda is not to protect and sustain health care but rather to continue to dismantle it - piece by piece.

Full-Scale Privatization of Health Care?

By Raj Pannu - ND MLA

One of the little-known aspects of Bill 11 was that it created the Premier's Advisory Council on Health. Ostensibly it's a group of people to advise the premier on the sustainability and future of public health care.

Grandparents Sue for Custody to Take Granddaughter away from their Gay Daughter

A well-known local bartender, Helen who works at Secrets Bar and Grill is now in the process of battling a custody battle for her eight-year-old daughter, Alyssa. Our story begins 6 months ago when Helen left Nova Scotia, to come to Alberta in search of work. Helen left her daughter in her parent's care, with the understanding that in a few months time, she would be sending a ticket to bring Alyssa west. Helen came to Edmonton, immediately got a job and has worked non-stop to save money, in order to bring Alyssa home.

Two weeks ago, when Helen sent a ticket to her family, for Alyssa to come to Edmonton. She received a phone call from her brother saying that, in fact, they (Helen's brother and parents) would not be sending Alyssa west and they were instead petitioning the court for custody. Helen's brother then proceeded to tell her that the court date had been set for September the 25, at a courthouse in Nova Scotia. He went on to say, that if Helen failed to appear at the hearing - it would be showing that she did not care, and custody would be awarded jointly to Helen's parents and brother. The rational behind the custody suit being that Helen was an unfit mother because of character and lifestyle: working in a gay bar, working late hours, hanging out with people of questionable character. While it is true that some people should never be parents, and some parents never learn to care for their children as they should..... this case, is not that case. Helen is absolutely devoted to Alyssa, with her sole thought being for the safety and well - being of her daughter. The case seems ridiculous, and should be dismissed outright, but the fact of the matter remains, that because of her families ill - formed judgments based upon conjecture and prejudice, Helen will have to pursue this matter before the courts in Nova Scotia, at great personal expense - both emotional and financial.

When I think of family, I think of those that you can turn to for support, in times of need. It is, for me, unthinkable that a family would so cruelly and maliciously undermine, their own. I've heard the term - "the families we choose" and, just now, I am beginning to understand why and what that means. There is a great need at this time for the gay community to come together, as it has in the past, to lend support in whatever ways possible. Donations are now being collected at Secrets Bar and Grill, for a legal defense fund, for this case. By contributing, we, the members of the gay community, may help to unite a mother with her child, and in the process show everyone the true nature of community, perhaps even of family.

Michelle LaVoie, Sessional Lecturer, University of Alberta

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HIV/AIDS Walk & Red Ribbon Run

- Q. Why does walking or running make a difference?
- A. When you turn out at the HIV/AIDS Walk as either a walker, runner, volunteer or sponsor, you demonstrate your support for those people in the community who are infected or affected by HIV and AIDS. The money you bring in pledges is important. It goes toward continuing the work of these sponsoring agencies. Showing up to this event demonstrates support for the work of the four hosting agencies.

Feather of Hope, HIV Edmonton, Living Positive, and Interfaith are all committed to providing much needed services to the community.

Interfaith Centre for AIDS/HIV Resources and Education: "The Interfaith Centre for AIDS/HIV Resources & Education (ICARE) is excited to be a part of the HIV/AIDS Walk 2000. While the Walk is an important fundraiser for all four agencies, the awareness that is raised with the regard to HIV is even more important. Raising awareness is a very important part of the work we do. HIV affects the whole community; ICARE believes that a person's well-being needs a holistic approach that includes spiritual, as well as physical, mental and social aspects of health. ICARE believes that connectedness to self, others and the community are vital components of total health. Our work at ICARE is promoting safe and supportive communities by encouraging that kind of connectedness. A community is what we become when we walk or run for HIV/AIDS... a community committed to the hope of a better tomorrow."

HIV Network of Edmonton Society: "Being a part of the HIV/AIDS Walk allows us to continue our work and address all segments of society. The diversity of the participants in this event reflects the diversity of the people in the community that are concerned about the services provided to people with HIV and AIDS."

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Internet

www.times10.org

Feather of Hope Aboriginal AIDS Prevention Society: "Feather of Hope Aboriginal AIDS Prevention Society feels that this is a very important fundraiser because the highest rate of infection right now is in the aboriginal community. Events such as this are necessary to bring more awareness to aboriginal communities and to get at-risk aboriginal youth involved."

Living Positive (Edmonton Persons Living with HIV Society): "Living Positive is an organization by and for people living with HIV. Funds raised through the Run and Walk go to support its projects and programs. At Living Positive we believe that to be connected with someone else who is living with HIV is one of the most important means of support a person can get. Through fundraisers like this, we make that possible."

We encourage everyone to turn out on September 24, 2000 at 10:00 am at the Kinsmen Sports Centre to show their support for the work of these agencies and the people for whom they work. Pledge kits can be obtained by calling (780) 488-5742 and asking for the Walk Office. In order to make this event a success, we need the support of the community. HIV and AIDS is a community affair, and this philosophy is clearly demonstrated by the diverse audience this event attracts. It is an opportunity to meet and get to know other people who have been affected by this disease.

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Contact

Garry @ 426-6311, Kent @ 454-0313, or
E-mail-Garry at davegarry@v-wave.com

Recognized Community Builders

Affirm United

(United Church of Canada) meets at McDougall United Church 10025 - 101 St. Last Saturday of the month at 7:30 - 9:30 PM. For more info, call Larry at 429-4269 or Phyllis/Tess at 462-8896.

Alberta Pflag

Meets the last Sunday of each month at Knox-Met Church. The Church is located at the corner of 109 Street and 83 Avenue. Meeting time is 2 P.M. Contact Ellen by phone at 465-3057 or by e-mail showrish@compusmart.ab.ca.

Alcoholics Anonymous

A A is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. Call 424-5900 for times and places of Gay and Lesbian meetings.

Arctic FrontRunners

We are a group of gay and lesbian runners, that meets on Sunday mornings for a run on the river valley trail system. We are a recreational group and runners of all speeds are welcome. The length of our runs varies from about 7 to 10 km. During the spring, summer, and fall we meet beneath the electronic sign at 87 Ave and 114 St on the University campus at 11:00 AM. For more information, call Bill at 436-7892.

AXIOS - Edmonton

AXIOS is an international organization of Eastern Orthodox and Eastern-Rite Catholic Gay and Lesbian Christians. Our mandate is to promote a greater understanding of human sexuality and spirituality within the Eastern Christian tradition. The AXIOS monthly newsletter is available via the Internet.

Badminton League

The badminton league is designed for men and women of all ages and experience. Players who are interested can participate in Calgary's Western Cup Tournament during the Easter Long Weekend. For further information, please contact Bruce at 453-1244 (email: cwbvteddy@powersurfr.com) or Dennis at 471-4409.

Bare Naked Boys Club of Edmonton - BNBCE

A naturist group of gay men in Edmonton interested in social nudity. This is not a sex club. Men of all ages welcome. Call Fred at 471-6993 and at the email address bnbce@interbaun.com

The B.E.A.R.S of Edmonton

A group for hairy men and their admirers meet the first and third Saturday of each month 9:00 p. m. - 11:00 p.m. at Buddy's Nite Club. Or write us at #47, 10024-82nd Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6E 1Z3. Our email address is bears@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca. WebPages at: <http://www.freenet.edmonton.ab.ca/>

~bears

Brethren Mennonite Council

For Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual concerns. This is a support community for gay, lesbian and bisexual Mennonites and friends. Contact Tim at 434-5360 or Heather at 987-4974. Email address jonrach@msn.com

Dignity Edmonton

This Edmonton chapter is a support community for gay and lesbian Catholics and friends. Contact Bernard at 451-1794 or Joseph at 481-4218

Classics

A social support group for lesbians over 40 years of age. Meetings on the first Sunday of the month at 2 p.m. Call Donna at 456-1008

Edmonton PFLAG/T

Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays. Edmonton PFLAG/T promotes the health and well-being of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender persons, their families and friends through support, education and advocacy. Meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of the month at GLCCE. Contact Lynne at 462-5958 or e-mail: pflag@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

Edmonton Prime Timers

We are a chapter of Prime Timers Worldwide, an international social organization for mature gay and bisexual men and their younger friends over 21. We meet the second Sunday of every month (except July and August) at 3:00 PM at the

Unitarian Church of Edmonton (12530 110 Ave.) for a social period, a guest speaker, and an optional supper at a restaurant. For more information, contact Peter at 426-7019, Ron by e-mail at mercury@planet.eon.net, or better yet...join us at our monthly meeting.

Edmonton Rainbow Business Association (ERBA):

Gay men and Lesbians in business and our non-gay friends; Join us ...share your business knowledge, learn more, make new friends, network ... in positive, proud space where being yourself is the norm. Call Bill Faulkner for more information 422 6207. Membership \$25.00/yr.

Edmonton Vocal Minority

Women and men of all sexual orientations dedicated to sharing and preserving the cultural heritage of the queer community. Everyone is welcome to join this mixed voice choir as either a singer or a support member. Come and sing your pride! For information: Telephone: (780) 479.2038, E-mail: evm@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca, on the web at: <http://www.planet.eon.net/~toocute/evm/>, or write to PO Box 12091, Main Post Office Edmonton, AB T5J 3L2.

Equal=Alberta [Edmonton]

Equal=Alberta [Edmonton] is a group of concerned citizens working to ensure gay and lesbian Albertans

remain protected under Alberta's Human Rights Legislation and to ensure equal treatment for all Albertans. Call: (780) 488-3234 Fax (780) 482-2855. By Email: equalalberta@hotmail.com

Feather of Hope Aboriginal AIDS Prevention Society

The Feather of Hope was founded on a need to provide AIDS education and support to Native People in Alberta. Through education and the development of communities in partnership, it is hoped that the spread of AIDS will be lessened. Volunteers are very important to us. If you can help, or would simply like some more information, call 488-5773

Free-To-Be Volleyball Association

The Association aspires to provide opportunities for our community to play volleyball in a supportive atmosphere.

1) C-Recreation - contact Rick at 474-6785; 2) Beach (summer) - contact Rick at 474-6785; 3) B-Intermediate - contact Darcy at 425-7316; 4) Tournament - contact Andrew at 435-9379. Email: fib.volleyball@telusplanet.net. Website: <http://www.telusplanet.net/public/aschust/fib.htm>

Gay Men's Wednesday Coffee Evenings.

At 7:30 p.m. Café on Whyte at 10159 - 82 Avenue. This group fosters a safe, comfortable environment for all its participants. At the same time, it discourages attendance solely for sexual relations. Join us to relax, share experiences, and establish friendships. There is no age limit. Tel: 780-463-2098 (Graham) E-mail:

gwatts@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca. Website: <http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/Castro/5598>

Gay Men's Outreach Crew (GMOG)

GMOG is a peer education initiative for gay/bisexual men that works toward: preventing the spread of HIV among men who have sex with men, addressing social and health concerns by fostering self-esteem and gay positive attitudes. For information on GMOG workshops and other activities, please call Robert at (780) 488-5742

Guys Going Dancing

Tired of dancing alone in a crowded club? We meet every Friday from 10:00PM at Buddy's Dance Club, 10112 - 124 Street for companionship and fun on the dance floor. To join us, contact Graham 463-2098 or e-mail:

gwatts@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

HIV Network of Edmonton Society (HIV Edmonton)

HIV Edmonton works cooperatively with all those organizations in Alberta and across the country who are working to help limit the spread of HIV infection. HIV Edmonton utilizes a best practices Harm Reduction approach in Health Promotion, Advocacy and Support, as well as, maintaining an extensive Resource Centre for use by health practitioners, health promoters, community organizations and those infected and affected by HIV. For information on the activities of HIV Edmonton,

please call (780) 488-5742 or contact us by email at mail@hivedmonton.com. Visit our Website at <http://www.hivedmonton.com>

Illusions Social Club

A social club for Cross-dressers, Transsexuals and their supporters. We hold two socials each month, one on the second Thursday and one on the third Saturday. For more information, write to Illusions Social Club. Our mailing address is Box 1852, Edmonton, T5K 2P2; or phone 488-3234 on Tuesday evenings to talk to someone person to person.

Imperial Sovereign Court of the Wild Rose

The mission of the Court is to raise funds for charities and other organizations, which provide direct services to gay and lesbian individuals. Meetings of the Society are held at 8 PM on the last Wednesday of the month at the Garage. Our e-mail is:

wildrosecourt@yahoo.com.

Visit our Website at:

<http://www.geocities.com/wildrosecourt>

Interfaith Association on AIDS Edmonton

The purpose of this association is to sensitize local faith communities and their leaders to the unique spiritual and emotional needs of those infected by HIV/AIDS. Many faith communities are included. Phone 448-1768 for more information. Email: mail@hivedmonton.com.

Lambda Christian Community Church

We are a non-denominational evangelical Christian church. One of

our primary goals is to provide a safe and affirming environment for all who desire to worship God. Lambda Community Church, 11148-84 Avenue (Garneau United Church) Edmonton, T6G 0V8. Call 474-0753. Weekly Sunday service at 7 p. m.

Liatris Society

An informal social group for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and straight people who enjoy gardening and outdoor nature activities. For information contact liatrisociety@hotmail.com or William at 474-7328.

Liaison Committee, The

In June of 1993, Edmonton Police Service and the Gay and Lesbian community met for a liaison to promote an atmosphere of understanding and mutual respect. For more info, call Edmonton Police Service at 423-4567 or contact the committee at 421-2277

Living Positive

Emotional, spiritual and psychological support is available through Living Positive to all those affected by HIV infection. We offer strong, loving, confidential support. We also meet weekly and share our mutual experiences. Living Positive is entirely directed by and for people who share a common diagnosis of HIV+. Peer counseling, hospital visits and a speakers bureau are also available through our society. Phone 488-5768 or e-mail: livepos@connect.ab.ca.

Long Yang Club

Support Groups and Services

Continued from page 17

Edmonton Chapter

We are an International organization for Gay-Asians and non-Asians. We are the worlds largest with chapters in 28 cities and 11 countries. Come and Join US! Contact us via Graham at 463-2098.

Lutherans Concerned: Edmonton

We are a spiritual community for lesbian, gay, bisexual and straight people. Lutherans Concerned gathers monthly for worship, sharing, and friendship. We offer individual support and a safe space for our own spiritual questions. Call 462-2146, or write P.O. Box 11095, Edmonton, AB, T5J 3K4 e-mail: luthcon@crossroadsedmonton.com

Making Waves Swim Club (MWSC)

Making Waves Swim Club is open to all that have an interest in swimming at any level: learn to swim, stroke improvement or competitive training. Our first swim practice of our 2000/2001-season will be Sunday, September 10th at a new location, Confederation Pool, 11204-43 Avenue, Sundays from 7-8:30 P.M. and Thursday evenings at a time to be announced. Contact us at - 1. WebPages: http://www.geocities.com/makingwaves_edm/home.htm. 2. E-mail: makingwaves_edm@yahoo.com 3. Phone: Warren 780.497.8511. 4. Attend a practice - your first swim is free! 18

Metropolitan Community Church of Edmonton (M.C.C.)

We are a local church within the denomination of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. Our major focus is to the defranchised of society. The UFMCC allows anyone to feel a part of the Christian Community and to claim our place in God's Universe. Services will not be held until later this fall.

New Attitudes

We are a group for those of you who are in their mid-20's to mid-30's. We are here for socializing, meeting people and just having fun. We do a coffee evening every third Sunday. Anything we plan to do is done on that night. We meet at The Urban Grind (10124-124st @ 7pm). It is an evening of relaxed chatting, and good coffee. We welcome any men or women who would like to join us. Please feel free to come on down for a night of conversation and friendship. E-Mail us at: g_mw_edmonton@yahoo.ca.

Northern Chaps

Edmonton's Leather - Fetish club for Gay, Lesbian, and straight men and womyn was established six years ago. We strike to educate the rest of the community through workshops, staged demonstrations and events in order to heighten awareness. Northern Chaps meets at Buddy's Night Club the 1st and 3rd

Saturday each month. Our e-mail address: Northernchaps@telusplanet.net

Northern Titans

Northern Titans International Bowling League meets every Wednesday and Saturday from, September to April, at Strikes Bowling Centre. For more information, please call Garry Billett at (780) 426-6311. WebPages at: <http://www.geocities.com/northerntitans/>.

Out at the Symphony

A unique social event for gay men. Meet other music lovers on Saturday concert evenings of the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra Masters Mini-Series 1. Enjoy special guest speakers, reserved café tables at intermission and post show fun. Contact Paul at 428-1108 ext 240 for more information.

Outdoors Club

Have you an interest in backcountry hiking/camping? If so, the Outdoors Club is for you. Our purpose is to get people together for hiking/camping trips, primarily within the Rockies and surrounding area. Although the main focus of this group is on individuals of moderate (and higher) ability within the 20 to 30 age group, it is by no means exclusive. For information please contact us at 780-430-0759 or e-mail: glb_outdoors@hotmail.com

OUTreach

OUTreach is a university-based organization for gays, lesbians and bisexuals

interested in an academic atmosphere. Meetings are held every Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. on campus, main floor of the Athabasca Hall. Topics vary from week to week. Additional information is available by E-mail: outreach@gpu.srv.ualberta.ca

Team Edmonton

Team Edmonton - Gay Games Association is set up to provide an opportunity for persons interested in participating in the Gay Games through fund raising. If you would like to be involved with Team Edmonton, call Johann at 437-0687.

Yours Mine Ours And Us

Parenting support group for glbt parents, partners. Meets the first and third Wed. of the month from 7 - 9 p.m. Small donations for room costs. Issues of parenting, sharing skills, coming out to kids, discipline etc. Call Liz at 415-5434 or Garry at 426-6311 for more information. This is peer support, not a therapy service. Webpages at: http://www.geocities.com/ymou_1999/.

Youth Understanding Youth

We meet every Saturday from 7 to 9 p.m. at the GBLT Centre of Edmonton, Suite 103, 10612-124 Street. A social support group for anyone under the age of 25 years. For more information, or to give your input email: yuviedm@hotmail.com Visions - Unitarian

Church of Edmonton

We are an open, liberal religious community that values diversity and celebrates our Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered members. With us, you are encouraged with open mind and heart to form your own set of personal beliefs. Sunday services at 9:30am and 11:15am. 12530 - 110 Ave, Ph. 454-8073. For more information call Mike at 482-6582.

Womonspace

We are a social and recreational society for lesbians in Edmonton. We hold monthly dances and other activities. Look for our monthly newsletter around town or phone 482-1794. Visit our Website at <http://www.gaycanada.com/womonspace/>.

Writers Club

There are several successful gay writers in Edmonton. Many more write as a hobby just for the fun of it. The goal is to establish a Writers Club, which will encourage and support the serious writers of the future, and at the same time increase the pleasure of the hobbyists. The Writers Club meets biweekly on Mondays from 7:30PM to 9:30PM. For further information, location and the next meeting date contact Graham 463-2098 or e-mail: gwwatts@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

Regional Organizations

AIDS Yellowknife

Website: <http://www.ssimicro.com/aids/>

Freedom Fort McMurray

A social Support group for Gays/Lesbian/Bisexual & Transgendered Persons and their friends. For information on upcoming events and inquiring into membership, please call our Freedom line (780) 799-GAY1 (4291). To speak directly with a welcoming committee member, call between 3-6pm on Tuesdays or Thursdays. You may mail us at Freedom Fort McMurray c/o Money Mart Suite #1, 9713 Harding St. Fort McMurray, AB T9H 1L2.

Grande Prairie

Gay and Lesbian Community
Box 1492, Grande Prairie,
AB T8V 4Z3
E-mail: pellerin@gprc.ab.ca

Northern Rainbow Youth

A support group for High School students. Our email address is nry13_18@hotmail.com. Any high school student can get more info by contacting their school guidance counselor. If you want more info yourself, then you can call Crystal at (780) 790-0775 at work.

Out North

Box 2827, Yellowknife, NT., X1A 2R2, Phone line: 867-669-7279
Website: <http://www.yellowknife.com/ptartan/outnorth.htm>
E-mail: out_north99@hotmail.com

For up-to-date Events and Times you can check our Community Calendar at www.times10.org

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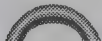
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Your group can be listed here as a community service of Times 10. Please try to keep your listing updated. This is not the place to make announcements of upcoming events, just general information and a contact. E-mail your listing to times10@telusplanet.net

Pride: What Schools Do Not Teach

By Gloria Filax

This is a story about a kid I'll call Young Shakespeare. He is an ordinary kid. He is parented by two women who are lesbians. He calls them the "Womens" and is joyful in his relationship with them. Young attends his local elementary school and is great friends with another kid.... let's call him Night Stock. Young and Night have sleep overs every weekend, play at school, sit in side by side desks, eat lunch together, and even go on holidays together.

Things change when the two go to junior high school. Some of the older boys start picking on Young because he dresses differently. Young is a skater and wears baggy pants, colours his spiky hair blue and green, and carries his skateboard everywhere. The older boys grab Young's books and throw them in the garbage; they shove Young, and one day they carry him to the other side of the school so he is late for class. When they were younger, Night stood up for Young but over the course of the first month of junior high, Night becomes increasingly distant. One day, along with the older boys Night calls Young names like "gay", "queer", and "fag". Young

and Night are no longer friends.

In fact, Young chooses to change schools because of the increasing harassment. Young tells the "Womens" that informing school authorities will only make things worse. After his first year of junior high, school never feels the same for Young. The transition to high school is an anxious yet exciting, time for Young. On the first day of school, he discovers that Night



attends the same high school. Young hopes that they can put junior high behind them but as the first week unfolds, Night starts to chant at Young in the hallways. "Fag-got.....fag-got.....fag-got!" Night spits out "Nothing but the son of a stupid lesbian!" Night challenges Young to a fist fight. Young refuses but after school, a large circle of teens surrounds the pair as they try to leave school, moving them into the centre of the crowd. Night throws the first punch and misses. Young punches and WHAM! He connects with Night's face. At this point a teacher charges up, the crowd disperses quickly and Young is caught by the teacher. When asked what happened, Young replies that someone blind-sided him and that he does not know who. The next

day Night is identified as the other kid and Young is given a two-day suspension for lying and fighting while Night is given a one day suspension for fighting.

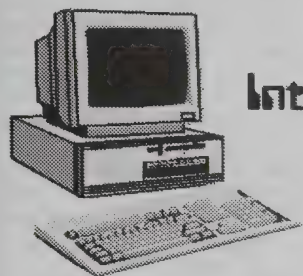
This is the story of one kid whose parents are not straight. Children of sexual minorities are just one more casualty of the systemic heterosexism and homophobia of schooling and the larger societal context within which kids live and try to make sense of who they are. As Young so eloquently states, "Where would I begin to talk about what had happened and how unfair it was that I, who was being harassed, was the one disciplined more severely? What would the school authorities do with this? What kinds of rights do I have in that situation?"

These are the lessons taught to children of sexual minorities in Alberta's schools. They learn that heterosexist prejudice and homophobic harassment and bullying are okay, as well as cruel and misleading myths and lies about their families and parents. There is an absence of role models as well as an invisibility of lesbian and gay culture and history. These are the lessons that "straight" kids learn as well. They are the lessons that reproduce heterosexism and homophobia. This not-so-hidden curriculum has particularly damaging effects for the children of sexual minorities as well as queer youth.

Meanwhile, Young has dropped out of school because it seems irrelevant to his life. Given the context, who can disagree?

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Speaking Of Normal

By Liz Massiah, MSW, RSW
Registered Clinical Social Worker

(With Gordon Portman)
Editor and award winning
playwright

A lot of thoughts about parenting these days: step-parenting, co-parenting, whether parenting is determined only by birth and/or adoption and/or whether they're his and/or her kids and/or yours ... it seems, to me at least, that the permutations seem endless.

What is parenting, anyway - and is the role of parent determined by whether you are an actual birth-related parent? A day care worker says "Let me help you tie your shoe". Grandma says "Thanks for helping me clear the table." Isn't that a kind of parenting? When any adult - foster parent, teacher, uncle, aunt, grandparent, baby-sitter - helps a child learn and grow, is that not parenting of a kind? How many of us have friends, or extended family, or a teacher, who "was like a mother to me" or "taught me things the way my dad did".

Experience has taught me, among other things, that parenting is about teaching, supporting, following, sharing, protecting, launching ... and lots more. Gotta be the most important, and the toughest job, ever. It can be hugely rewarding, hugely challenging, and hugely difficult, often all at the same time. Makes me think of the title of the musical "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change" ... abbreviated, in parent-speak, to "Do it my way".

I find it interesting that parenting and partnering are the same word with only the order of the letters changed. And I also find it interesting that the "do it my way" gremlin shows up in conversations about both parenting and partnering, and that ways of dealing with that particular gremlin, under either circumstance, are pretty similar.

It seems that folks grappling with that nasty little beast often say "I won't tolerate his anger" or "I can't tolerate the mess she makes" or "his possessiveness" or "her disrespect" or whatever is the issue of the moment. They make these comments with passion and desperation. Sometimes it's just a plain old power grab, and needs to be dealt with as such. But there are other occasions - I'd venture to say lots of them - that both the anger and the unwillingness to tolerate it, for example, are about someone expressing needs that deserve to be heard and respected. The bottom line: whatever the motivation, a way needs to be found to deal with the daily, multi-faceted manifestations of the gremlin in non-threatening, balanced ways.

A glance into the Canadian Oxford Dictionary shows us this: tolerate: allow the existence, practice or occurrence of, without authoritative interference or proscription; endure or allow with patience, leniency or understanding; put up with; sustain or endure". Now this all suggests to me a lot of effort, a lot of "grin and bear it", a lot of stuffing down of resentments and anger. Not a particularly pleasant, or useful, way to expend your energies.

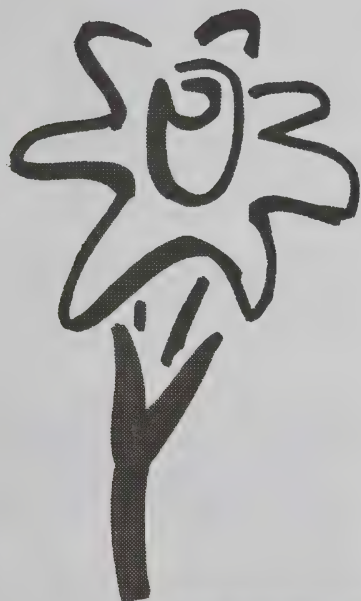
Another glance, however, shows us **accommodate**: provide lodging or room for; adapt, harmonize, reconcile; do service or favour; oblige or supply. Now these are much softer words, much easier to connect positively with. They invite me into an opportunity to consider, to explore, to play around with something to see if it's workable. Images of moving the furniture around the living room to find the best place for the sofa come to mind ... of squeezing over on the bench to make room for one more ... of wondering what it would mean to "accommodate her request" for going to bed later on Friday nights, of his request for "more time with my kids", of a mother's request to clean the room, of a child's request for more time with friends.

Accommodate does not mean "giving in", or not having a boundary that needs to stay in place. It does mean searching for a way of sharing, of exploring. In the parenting group, we were talking about approaching schools to talk about the needs of lesbian/gay parents regarding their kids. When we talked about getting them to be tolerant, we seemed more defensive, tighter, strained. But when we started to think of suggesting to the schools that together we could work to find ways to accommodate our needs within their constraints, lots of options came up quickly.

It's yet another example of the way that language is both a creator of our experience and a reflection of it. Many folks - friends, family, clients - are familiar with my mantra of "and" rather than "either/or", and it seems to me that working towards accommodation is a perfect way of bringing the "and" into the forefront of the way we live, energizing options and choices. It's amazing what happens when you change just one word in a thought: it can filter through the whole belief system behind that thought, and thus the emotions connected to the belief.

Try it. "I can tolerate" generates a very different reaction than "I can accommodate". The reverse is also true: "I can't accommodate" is much easier, on all parties concerned, than "I can't tolerate". Now both have their place: let's face it, there are things about life and living that can be neither tolerated nor accommodated. Nevertheless, I suggest playing with the two words to see how much impact change there can be.

And don't try it just in your personal relationships, as you parent, as you partner, as you live ... try it with groups you're working with, or organizations. As always, there are no sure answers: but it may be that you find some easier, healthier alternatives to dealing with the questions.



*They are not long,
the days of wine & roses;
Out of a misty dream
Our path emerges for awhile
then closes
Within a dream*

Ernest Dowson

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Let's Not Lose The Concept Of A Just Society!

I am greatly disturbed that our federal riding of Calgary Centre will become a battlefield of right-wing politics over the next few months. The last federal election demonstrated that 40 per cent of our voters supported small "I" liberal philosophies.

The community of Calgary Centre must reflect those values of compassion, respect, equality and inclusion. I shudder at the prospect of the continued reactionary American Republican views and intolerance adopted by the current MP Eric Lowther. His continued attack on children's rights, the women's movement, the achievement of rights for gays and lesbians. His tossing aside of the reality of the global village goes against the mandate of creating an environment for a safe and caring community, in which all of us wish to live and to work.

We must not allow the Alberta advantage that has been achieved to date to return to the politics of the 1950s. I would urge all in the community to seek out and to support the candidate that best reflects the reality of Calgary Centre.

The community has benefited by the work done in Edmonton by Michael Phair, provincially by Sheldon Chumir and Gary Dickson and the federal support we have received from

politicians such as Anne McLellan, David Kilgour and Svend Robinson.

This is a critical time for our community. I ask everyone to search out the federal candidates that best reflect our human values. We have to join their team and support those who best reflects our principles and values, our dreams and realities.

The Stock flat taxers remind me of the counteractionaries of the 1500s who were convinced that the world was flat. They, too, were worried if they should fall off the edge. Well, the cutting edge is here in Calgary Centre. Where the traditional Liberal values of a Just Society are alive and well — and, might I say, doing quite well without any pillaging and raping by the Stockwell Day's and Joe Clark'ers. Equality, inclusion, compassion and respect is reflected through the diverse riding of Calgary centre. Our residents truly reflect the ethical city envisioned by Sheldon Chumir, echoed by Gary Dickson. There are been several visionary politicians in Edmonton. Our current visions are only realities waiting to come alive. And we are alive marching into the 21st century, not being dragged back into the 19th century by Mr. Eric Lowther and his band of power seekers.

Just think of the power we would have by sending an MP from Calgary Centre who would certainly be seated at the cabinet table. That's empowerment. That's the alliance the community requires to achieve.

Edmund A. Oliverio
Calgary, Alberta



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We Know Who You Are...

My Monthly Neurosis

By Rob Browatzke

It was 1969 when New York drag queens participated in the Stonewall riots, an action that elevated the Queer Rights movement to a new level. And in the intervening years, the role of drag queens in the gay community has not lessened at all. They are still as flamboyant, as colorful, as energetic, as ever. More importantly, they are still active in many aspects of community organizations and development.

And yet, perhaps no one subgroup of the Queer community receives as much criticism as the Queens. They're too "stereotypical", they're too "in-your-face", and they're just

too "girly". How many times have you heard someone say, "if I wanted to date a woman, I'd be straight"? Well, when it comes to romantic or sexual interest, not "going for" drag queens is not really any different than preferring foreskins or blondes or big wrists.

However, that doesn't and cannot deny the social and political importance that drag queens play in the community. And when discussing that role, it is almost impossible to ignore the Court. The Imperial Sovereign Court of the Wild Rose is a non-profit organization serving Edmonton and Northern Alberta that is dedicated to raising money for charities, a very noble cause.

Why then is it beset with interpersonal politics and infighting that counter the good it is trying to accomplish? Too often it seems, questions of little importance gain too much

attention, detracting from the fact that they're all there and involved to raise money for various charities. Bitter people trying to turn personal grudges into political causes are detrimental to the running of such an organization.

Maybe this is just such a big issue right now because August was Big Gay Ball month, with shows seemingly every other day. Stress and tensions were running high, as Queens from all over Canada, and many from the States, came to town to support the outgoing Empress and Emperor, and to bring in the new ones. The focus, sadly, seemed to shift from celebrating all that Garry and Dyna Thirst accomplished, to dealing with trifles from years past. Admittedly, I am a new kid on the block when it comes to Court politicking and intrigue, but it seems to me that if people spent more time focussed what good can be done in the here and now, they'd be better off than

continually harping on past problems.

What can be said though? Maybe this catty gossip and manipulation is one of the thrills to the Drag World. To me though, the point of it all isn't impressive titles or flashy new crowns or competing for this honor or that. The point is putting on an entertaining show that will raise money for worthy causes. The sooner that is realized, the better it will be for the Court, the people involved, and the organizations that benefit from the donations.

Drag queens are an integral part of the gay community. Yes they're flamboyant and yes they're noticeable. But they're exciting and dynamic and vital to the ongoing evolution of Queer culture. You might not like the fact that the media camera seems drawn to them, but surely, if you spent as much money and effort getting all frocked up as they do, you'd invite that attention yourself.

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Barebacking: A negative way to describe a natural act

*(A discussion of anal
intercourse and healthy gay
male sexuality.)*

**By Robert Smith
Health Promotions
HIV Edmonton**

Last year I wrote an article entitled "Barebacking to the Millennium" in which I commented on what was perceived to be an emerging trend. Barebacking has been defined, primarily, as the participation in anal intercourse without the use of condoms as protection from HIV/AIDS, "raw" sex. The article was in response to one published the previous month called "The AIDS Cult and Seroconverts", by Ian Young that outlined the philosophical and psychological undercurrent of a growing risk-taking. The articles served as a bit of a "heads-up" for me on some of the attitudes and issues around barebacking as well as an opportunity to promote dialogue on the subject.

Well, we're talking about barebacking again. It remains a controversy that has many, many folk on both sides of the discussion very concerned. Much has to do with the media attention and the voyeuristic slant put on gay/bisexual male sexual activity. The lustful atmosphere has lent a perplexity to the solutions to a sexual and emotional reality in gay/bisexual men's lives. Much has to do with the reality that there is a risk to random barebacking behaviour. On August 21 and 22, the National Post and Edmonton Journal both ran articles again citing an increase of risk-taking among gay/bisexual men

in a study reported in *The Canadian Journal of Human Sexuality*. The subsequent discussions have been around barebacking.

At the outset, I want to emphasize that barebacking, though a term adopted by the gay/bisexual male community, is not an activity that is solely the dominion of gay and bisexual men. Heterosexual men and women practice "barebacking" with impunity, but it hasn't been given a name, hell, in most instances, it isn't even given a second thought.

In a recent online discussion at GayMensHealthSummit@eGroups.com one participant laments the tendency to perpetrate the misunderstanding of the term barebacking to mean "bug chasing" or "something approaching a pathological disorder". And he is correct. That is the tendency and it is given its impetus from a compulsive need for the non-gay/bisexual male to voyeuristically analyze homosexual practices.

Another participant in the online discussion states that the whole concept of "barebacking" as sensationalized by the media gained currency so quickly because of all imagery it implies.

The hype around gay/bisexual men's

sexual practices creates a vehicle for the rest of society to forget their own sexual behaviours and risk-taking. The eagerness with which the media led scapegoating of gay/bisexual men plays out in the discussion of HIV/AIDS and serves to focus away from the sexual behaviours and risk-taking of the remainder of the population.

There is a reality to the intimacy that two men share with each other. To imply that that intimacy is primarily animal and almost base is another indication of how deeply rooted the issue of homophobia has become. Men in romantic and intimate relationships with each other create the same bonds with their partner, for the same reasons and utilizing the same human instincts as does any other bonding couple in human society. We do not expect heterosexual couples or even bisexual men from family environments to use condoms.

The first comment on the online thread on barebacking was by John Egan from the University of British Columbia. He was promoting discussion around the

Continued on page 30

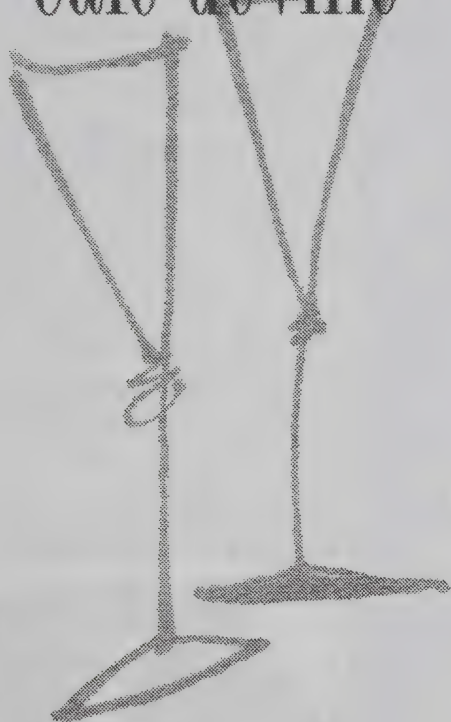
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A View from the Top

Northern Chaps News and
Events

By Scott Bryen

The summer has disappeared again and I hope everyone had a good one. Mine was great.

I attended the Vancouver Pride with an emphasis on the Leather and Bear events and while they were low-key for the most, they were fun and friendly. The majority of the events took place at the Royal Hotel, the Dufferin and Chucks Pub (The Black Apple). The highlight of the weekend was the leather/denim cruise on Sunday, and if any of you have the opportunity to attend this event, I would highly recommend it. Picture 500

leatherfolk and bears on a cruise ship for 4 hours meandering slowly through English Bay, False Creek and the Lion's Gate Bridge. It certainly raises a few eyebrows on shore with both the locals and the tourists to see that many leatherfolk out in public. It is also a great venue for socializing and acquainting yourself with leather folk from the western provinces and the west coast of the States. On the cruise, I met folks from San Francisco, Oregon, Washington, Texas, Los Angeles, and, of course, all the western provinces, including Mr. BC Leather 2000 (Larry Cleve), the current Mr. SF Drummer, Mr. Washington Drummer, and several other past and present title holders. Mr. Marcus of SF will be featuring a group photo of as many of us that could be gathered in his next publication.

Also, in August we had our first campout for leatherfolk. While the attendance was small, all had a great time and we are hoping that it becomes an annual event that all of us can enjoy.

Enough of the past now onto the future. Northern Chaps is still meeting at Buddy's on the 1st and 3rd Saturday's of each month, however, the location of

Buddy's has changed. They are now at 11725B Jasper Avenue. New members and interested folk are always welcome to join us. Jim and his staff provide a very supportive atmosphere for Northern Chaps.

In September, the first annual "Pub Crawl and Scare the Twinkie's Run" is scheduled for 16th. Let's get out in force and show Edmonton how large our community is. Contact any of the Executive or visit the Website for further details.

November will bring our BDSM101 class. This is a great way to expand your limits or just learn some new fun things. Details are very sketchy at this point, but I will bring you the venue and dates as soon as they are available. This class has been very instructive and we will be bringing in some very experienced people to speak on technique, attitudes, and safety.

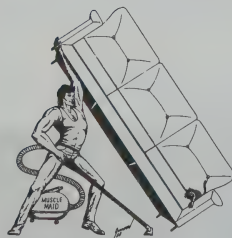
Until next time, play safe, play sane, and play consensually.

Yours In Leather,
Scott Bryen

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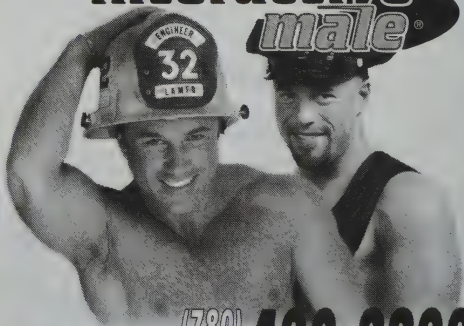
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Barebacking

Continued from page 26

conflation of unprotected sex between

I am going out on a limb here, because I believe we need to have this discussion in our community, and we need to promote the discussion in all infected and affected populations. There has been a great deal written about the need to adhere to the principle of the "a condom every time" mindset. A question of reality sets in; is it realistic to expect gay/bisexual men to be steadfast to this principle. Is it realistic to expect a heterosexual men to be steadfast to this principle (and would they)? The answer is no, it is not realistic, in fact the outcome of past campaigns that promoted the condom revolution are said to have been of significant harm to the overall intent of effecting change.

What we need to be talking about is trust and honesty with our sexual partners. Men who are in monogamous relationships and have tested HIV negative while in that relationship should be able to make the choice based on trust and honesty, not on the programming expectations of the well-meaning ASOs. We would expect no less from a committed heterosexual couple, married or otherwise. Men who are actively involved in serial monogamy, that is short-term relationships

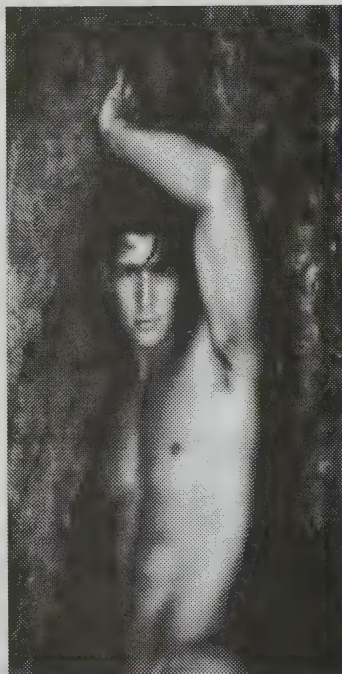
within which they remain monogamous, should also be able to make a choice based on trust and honesty. Couples who are HIV positive have yet another level of consideration. Included in their choices is the possibility of mutating strains as a result of an exchange of distinctly different strains of HIV through anal intercourse and other sexual activities.

It has been said repeatedly by the gay/bisexual male community that adherence to hard and fast dictates on behaviour create a backlash and a return to risk-taking. The negative message is seen as oppressive and homophobic and does not leave room for celebration or developing a personal comfort level with one's sexuality. The community as a whole is rejecting this approach. ASOs are even looking closely at the mistakes made in campaigns aimed at gay/bisexual men in the hope of avoiding the same backlash in other population groups.

There is a lot of gray area in this discussion and I do not have the solution to the question, to bareback or not to bareback. Only you can make that decision. What I can do is repeat that anal intercourse (homosexual and heterosexual) constitutes the greatest risk of HIV infection and when exploring the pleasures of sexuality consideration must be made for health and personal safety.

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Wednesday & Saturday Bowling Returns

By Garry Billett

Here it is the start of another season of bowling.

Who are we? We are **The Northern Titans Bowling League**. We are a Gay, Lesbian, Bi Sexual and Transgendered bowling league. This is our 10th anniversary of the league. So we thought we would start a **WEDNESDAY NIGHT LEAGUE** along with the

regular Saturday league.

The Northern Titans is a **FUN LEAGUE**; and we bowl in a safe environment. This year we will be bowling at **Strikes 10 Pin Bowling and Recreational Center**. Strikes has pool tables, an arcade, a lounge, a restaurant and 16 lanes of 10 pin bowling alleys.

If you are looking for a fun night out, a week to be with friends or whether you want to make many new friends, we have what you are looking for. We are a mixed league, which means we have both men and woman on the teams, or if you want you can set up your own team of all men or all woman.

If you are young or old or

in between, if you have bowled before or whether you haven't bowled before you are welcome to come out and join us. If you belong to



another group and want to get some of the other group members to join the bowling league that's great. **In fact** we would like to invite the

other groups in the community to form a team and come join the fun. What a great way for the community to get to know each other.

We host a bowling tournament every year in November and we have people come from all over the west to party and to bowl.

This year our tournament will be the biggest it has ever been. This year's tournament will not only have bowling, but for the **ICE BREAKER WEEKEND** we will also have a volleyball tournament, a swim meet, a curling tournament and a 8-ball pool tournament. We look forward to welcoming everyone to Edmonton.

If you would like to, contact us at davegarry@v-wave.com or you can call Garry at 426-6311 or you can visit our WebPages at www.geocities.com/northerntitans.

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Help solve the Puzzle

So one day a blonde calls her friend and says, "I need you to come over and help me solve this puzzle." He says, "What's it a puzzle of?" She replies, "From the box, it looks like a tiger." So, thinking himself to be a rather good puzzle person, he shows up at her house and she shows him to the table where all of the puzzle pieces are scattered across the table.

The friend takes a look at the puzzle pieces, and then at the box, then back at the pieces. Then turns to his blonde friend and says: "First, no matter what I do, I'm not going to be able to show you how to assemble these to look like the picture of that tiger.

"Secondly, go get a cup of coffee, and put all of these pieces back in the Frosted Flakes box."

The Rescue

Three boys were walking along a lake when they heard someone struggling in the water. At a closer look, they found President Clinton, who had slipped away from his secret service, going down for his last breath.

The boys looked at each other and decided that the right thing to do was to jump in and save him. They jumped in and brought him to shore. When he regained his composure, he thanked the boys and offered them anything they wanted.

The first boy thought about what it was that he would ask of the president and finally decided that he would like a presidential appointment to West Point. The second boy agreed that a presidential appointment would be nice but he wanted to go to Annapolis. The third boy thought and thought and thought, and finally he arrived at his decision. "Mr. President, I would like a burial with honors at Arlington National Cemetery." The president was taken aback and asked the boy why he would ask for such an unusual reward at his young age. The boy replied "When my father finds out I saved your life, he is going to kill me!"

B2

The Dead Mule

A Preacher went to his church office on Monday morning and discovered a dead mule in the churchyard. He called the police. Since there did not appear to be any foul play, the police referred the Preacher to the health department. They said since there was no health threat that he should call the sanitation department. The manager said he could not pick up the mule without authorization from the mayor. Now the Preacher knew the mayor and was not to eager to call him. The mayor had a bad temper and was generally hard to deal with, but the Preacher called him anyway. The mayor did not disappoint. He immediately began to rant & rave at the pastor and finally said, "Why did you call me any way? Isn't it your job to bury the dead?"

The preacher paused for a brief prayer and asked the Lord to direct his response. He was led to say, "Yes, Mayor, it is my job to bury the dead, but I always like to notify the next of kin first!"

The Angry Passenger

During the final days at Denver's old Stapleton airport, a crowded United flight was canceled. A single agent was rebooking a long line of inconvenienced travelers.

Suddenly an angry passenger pushed his way to the front of the line. He slapped his ticket down on the counter and said, "I HAVE to be on this flight and it has to be FIRST CLASS." The agent replied, "I'm sorry sir. I'll be happy to try to help you, but I've got to help these folks first, and I'm sure we'll be able to work something out."

The passenger was unimpressed. He asked loudly, so that the passengers behind him could hear, "Do you have any idea who I am?" Without hesitating, the gate agent smiled and grabbed her public address microphone. "May I have your attention please?" she began, her voice bellowing throughout the terminal. "We have a passenger here at the gate WHO DOES NOT KNOW WHO HE IS. IF

anyone can help him find his identity, please come to gate 17."

The Original Text

An Alliance Party politician dies and goes to heaven. The reception committee meets him headed by Peter; and, after a whirlwind tour of heaven, he is told that he can enjoy any of the recreations available.

He decides that he wants to read all of the ancient original text of the Holy Scriptures, so he spends the next eon or so learning the languages. After becoming a linguistic master, he sits down in the library and begins to pour over every version of the Bible, working back from the most recent "Easy Reading" to the original script.

All of a sudden there is a scream in the library. The Angels come running in - only to find the former Reformer/Alliance politician distraught in his chair, crying to himself, and muttering, "An 'R'! The scribes left out the 'R'." A particularly concerned Angel takes him aside, offering comfort, and asks him what the problem is and what does he mean. After collecting himself, he sobs again, "It's the letter 'R'. They left out the 'R'. The word was supposed to be CELEBRATE!"

The Good and Bad

Recently God was looking down at Earth and saw all of the evil that was going on. He decided to send an angel down to Earth to check it out. So he called on a female angel and sent her to Earth for a time. When she returned she told God, yes it is bad on Earth, 95% of the people are bad and 5% are good. Well, he thought for a moment and said maybe I had better send down a male angel; to get both points of view. So God called a male angel and sent him to Earth for a time. When the male angel returned he went to God and told him yes, the Earth was in decline, 95% of the people are bad and 5% are good. God said this was not good. He decided to E-mail the 5% that were good and encourage them... just a little something to help them keep going.

Do you know what that E-mail said?

.....Oh, you didn't get one?!!!!

Two Old Rivals

Two bitter old queens who were rivals in a social circle met at a party. "My dear," said one "Are those real pearls?" "They are," replied the other. "Of course the only way I could tell would be for me to bite them." Smiled the first, "Yes, but for that you would need real teeth."

Actual dialogue of a former WordPerfect Customer Support employee

"Ridge Hall, computer assistance; may I help you?" "Yes, well, I'm having trouble with WordPerfect." "What sort of trouble?" "Well, I was just typing along, and all of a sudden the words went away." "Went away?" "They disappeared." "Humm. So what does your screen look like now?" "Nothing." "Nothing?" "It's blank; it won't accept anything when I type." "Are you still in WordPerfect, or did you get out?" "How do I tell?" "Can you see the C: prompt on the screen?" "What's a sea-prompt?" "Never mind, can you move your cursor around the screen?" "There isn't any cursor: I told you, it won't accept anything I type." "Does your monitor have a power indicator?" "What's a monitor?" "It's the thing with the screen on it that looks like a TV. Does it have a little light that tells you when it's on?" "I don't know." "Well, then look on the back of the monitor and find where the power cord goes into it. Can you see that?" "Yes, I think so." "Great. Follow the cord to the plug, and tell me if it's plugged into the wall." "Yes, it is." "Oh, it's not because I don't have the right angle - it's because it's dark." "Dark?" "Yes - the office light is off, and the only light I have is coming in from the window." "Well, turn on the office light then." "I can't." "No? Why not?" "Because there's a power failure." "A power failure? Aha, Okay, we've got it licked now. Do you still have the boxes and manuals and packing stuff your computer came in?" "Well, yes, I keep them in the closet." "Good. Go get them, and unplug your system and pack it up just like it was when you got it. Then take it back to the store you bought it from." "Really? Is it that bad?" "Yes, I'm afraid it is." "Well, all right then, I suppose. What do I tell them?" "Tell them you're too fucking stupid to own a computer."

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Becoming Ourselves

Together, Alone



By Shawn Mooney

1. Our lives are woven through with themes-galore. A core motif unfolding in many, mine included, is the dance between connectedness and solitude.
2. By definition, "sexual orientation" correlates to sexuality and relationship: being gay, bisexual or lesbian orients us toward one another.
3. Yet the deepest parts of coming—and being—out stem from self-dialogue, engendered by solitary reflection.
4. I have had my most fulfilling queer experiences alone with my self. No, I'm not talking about masturbation here; I am talking about the soulful delight of dialoguing with my gay life on the journal's receptive, blank page; about tranquil recollection of my experience—from last night, last year or a decade ago.
5. Life can twist itself up into interpersonal melodrama; the more I

heed my body's yearning for regular solitary retreat, the less overwhelmed and bent out of shape I get. Nothing promotes soul growth like some quiet contemplation in between zany nights out at the bar.

6. I don't know whether I'll ever achieve that perfect balance between bountiful aloneness and the excitement that queer sociality can offer.
7. What I do know is this: my body sends signals when I'm overdoing it, one way or the other. My belly cramps up when I'm overindulging the club scene; my chest contracts—triggering any number of compulsions—when solitude dwindles down into anemic isolation.
8. Perfect balance bores the hell out of me, so I am not too worried. Aliveness isn't about permanent equilibrium; it's about *responding*—to myself and to others.
9. That self-aware responsiveness is a psychic muscle, exercised when I'm alone and when I'm in contact with you.
10. A decade ago, I used to go out to the bars five nights a week: to get drunk, to get picked up, to run from myself. Today I enjoy the milieu more episodically. I no longer drink; in smaller doses, whimsical carousing continues to enthrall me; I am learning how to create meaningful queer connections. Any one night's tableau of eros and eye contact and queening out can inspire meditation on love,

friendship and desire; I don't always have to intersect with the perpetual whirligig to be stimulated by it.

11. Home alone, nothing grounds me like a night off. Scribbling myself into being in my journal, I let the phone ring unanswered, steeped in the vast concoctions of my pen. Then later on, today or tomorrow, I am again ready to connect.
12. When several days go by of not answering my ringing phone, I know I'm beginning to slide down that slippery slope into withdrawal. Isolation breeds self-deception, compulsion, "stinking thinking". When that happens, I am learning how to coax myself back out into the world, into meaningful contact with folks who love me.
13. Fulfilling relationships—including romantic couplings—feed into satisfying aloneness. And vice versa. The wisest thing I've heard on "marriage" comes from Kahlil Gibran: *let there be spaces between your togetherness.*
14. Fear of being alone has been responsible for most of my life's interpersonal fuck-ups; satisfying, loving relationships I've co-created have been borne from conscious reflection as much as healthy communication.
15. Healthy communication can devolve into an list

of annoying self-help do's and don'ts; when flowing out of the soul-juice of our fabulous solitary selves, words—however imprecisely uttered—can knit lives together.

16. Connecting with myself and others is a unitary process; as I grow older, I appreciate the indivisibility of "intra" and "inter", of "within" and "between". It's all one big dance.
17. Shall we dance?

(Shawn Mooney is a psychotherapist in private practice in Edmonton. You can reach Shawn at 988-2741, mooneys@telusplanet.net, or on the Web at: www.telusplanet.net/public/mooneys.)

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OUTreach Update

Hello friends,

Summer is coming to an end and once more it's time to head back to school. Just when you were finally getting used to the idea of relaxing and sleeping in, Mother Nature decides to pull the rug out from beneath you. And, just like a real mother, manages to make you feel somehow guilty for all the fun and frolic you've had for the last few months. How else can you explain our working so hard so early on in September. I mean, after all, midterms are still a month and a half away. Well, since we're back anyway, we might as well learn something.

On that note, why not learn something about yourself, as

well. If you are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered or just simply open-minded and find yourself in a post-secondary situation, be it as a student, professor, or part of the staff, why not come out to OUTreach.

OUTreach is more than just a meeting place for like-minded individuals. It's a place to hang out, to talk about things that interest you or bother you, and to learn more about our place in the community and in society as a whole. While OUTreach is a social group with movie nights, guest speakers, potluck dinners, and dances, it is also much more than that; it's a place to feel comfortable in just being yourself.

OUTreach is an educational resource and contact point for anyone in any of Edmonton's, or the surrounding area's, post-secondary institutions, so don't worry if you don't go to the U

of A; everyone is welcome.

OUTreach meets every Tuesday at 5 p.m. in Athabasca Hall on the U of A campus. Meetings usually last from 5 to 6, at which time most of us retreat to the Second Cup for coffee and a more informal chat session. Whether you are interested in information, meeting new friends, or in just finding a place, in which you can be yourself, OUTreach is for you.

In the past, the OUTreach group has been very diverse in age and specialization, bringing a lot of opinions and backgrounds to our meetings. Undergrads, grad students and interested professors have made up our rosters in previous years, and we hope that that trend continues into the next. We also comprise members from every faculty and from every spectrum in the gay and lesbian community. When we say we're open to everyone,

we mean it.

The executive committee is working hard, putting together an interesting list of topics and speakers for you to enjoy and, whenever possible, we'll try to let you know in advance what will be discussed from week to week. Look for more information through Times.10 or our web page on the University of Alberta server at www.ualberta.ca/~outreach

We look forward to seeing you all out and about on campus this fall and hope that you will drop in to Athabasca Hall on Tuesday evenings for a little socialization, a little education, and a whole lot of fun.

If you are interested in any more information on us than you can find here or on our web page, please feel free to contact us at outreach@ualberta.ca
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Launching Gay Men's Health Movements

By Eric Rofes

As the sun sets on the crisis moment of AIDS for gay men throughout the United States, our communities need to prepare for the long night ahead. Throughout the nation, contentious groups of local public health officials, AIDS prevention organizers, and street activists are perplexed at the rise of bare-backing subcultures, vexed by the drug use at circuit parties, and disheartened by rises in

rates of sexually transmitted diseases among gay men. These diverse groups commonly share a single characteristic: all lack readiness for a new phase of health promotion work with the diverse gay male populations in their areas

Visionary ideas are just beginning to appear. One glimmer of innovation emerges from agencies attempting to reduce HIV among gay men of color. Unlike many gay white men, men of color have learned that effective HIV prevention has got to be embedded in a comprehensive approach to gay men's health. Yet throughout the nation, they remain under-resourced and under-valued.

It's time we dance to that

tune again. A new generation of leadership must emerge to provide a balanced sense of urgency to the contemporary conditions of gay men's lives. Time is ripe for a gay men's health movement to arise out of the charred embers of our community's AIDS moment.


Essentially, we must replicate for gay men's health precisely the community-based AIDS response we generated between 1982 and 1987. This movement must be powerful, rooted in our many subcultures, and willing to work independent of the formal public health structures of the nation.

Critical Gaps Beyond HIV

After two decades of building an AIDS infrastructure to address a crisis of enormous scale, now that the collective consciousness of gay men's communities is no longer transfixed on that horror, with what are we left? We certainly need a regenerated AIDS movement to continue the hard work ahead for all affected populations. A cursory glance at the gay geography of most parts of our nation reveals some critical gaps:

In almost all cities, counties, and states no organization has taken meaningful responsibility for overseeing the overall health and wellness of gay men.

A comprehensive plan for improving gay men's health does not exist in most areas, nor does any entity feel







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does not exist in most areas, nor does any entity feel responsible for creating such a plan, organizing accompanying wellness efforts, and monitoring its progress.

We have thousands of community-based organizations focused on HIV/AIDS but one could count on two hands the number of freestanding comprehensive gay men's health projects that exist. We have hundreds of groups with names like "Stop AIDS," but very few organizations operating under a "Gay Men's Health Project" banner.

While in most urban centers numerous groups work on a specific aspect of gay men's health (mental health, violence, sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, addiction recovery), these organizations usually lack meaningful coordination and rarely have provided activist leadership on health issues.

In the wake of a catastrophe as powerful as any earthquake that has hit a major metropolis, there has been no formal discussion of rebuilding our gay male communities in the wake of AIDS. And no strategic planning has taken place that has thoughtfully considered the revival and redevelopment of gay men's cultures. In 1987, we held a national "War Conference" to refine our strategies and accelerate our efforts against AIDS; at this time, we would benefit from a national summit focused on redeveloping gay communities in the ongoing epidemic.

Some parts of the country are moving boldly into this new phase of health work. Gay men's health projects have begun to sprout up in places as diverse as Philadelphia, Key West, Boulder, Minneapolis, and Salt Lake City.

Massachusetts's Public Health Department spearheaded needs assessments of gay men, created targeted planning processes, and created public bodies and community-based efforts to improve gay men's wellness.

What Is To Be Done?

It's time for ordinary gay men throughout the nation to grab the bull by its horns and create local gay men's health movements that strategically emphasize our diversity, respect our subcultures, prize our history and traditions, and refuse to pathologize homosexual identity or desires. We might do what we did two decades ago and create innovative efforts—informal, community-based task forces and projects outside the formal structures of government or public health oversight—to respond to the contemporary conditions facing gay men at this time. To suggest a few efforts worth consideration, we might launch savvy grassroots efforts focused on crystal use and other party drugs, harm reduction planning for barebackers, and the challenges of aging facing the nation's surviving gay male populace.

(The entire article is available at www.times10.org)

*(Eric Rofes, Ph.D. is a professor of education at Humboldt State University in Arcata, CA. He is the author of **Reviving the Tribe: Regenerating Gay Men's Identities and Cultures in the Ongoing Epidemic** (Haworth, 1996), and **Dry Bones Breathe: Gay Men Creating Post-AIDS Identities and Cultures** (Haworth, 1998).)*

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Aries Mar 23 - April 22

Power-plays seem to be the theme right now that affects you personally. Relationships are full of difficulty right now, one problem after another. If you learn something from the situation then not all is lost. You will also be seeking comfort from friends.



Taurus April 23 - May 22

Lots of resentment under the surface at this time. It may be a good idea to find a friend that you can talk to. There may even be a lesson in it for you, too. Will you be willing to put aside your pride and confide in someone?



Gemini May 23 - June 22

Luck just doesn't seem to be on your side at this time. There is also personal confusion in your life. Take some time for yourself. Rest up. This is also a good time to do some soul searching and get in touch with your self.



Cancer June 23 - July 22

Faraway places seem to be calling you right now because the grass seems greener on the other side. Money problems have been plaguing you and it causes you to fantasize about other places. You may also be able to meet that someone.

Leo July 23 - Aug. 22



You have been saddled with a lot more responsibility than you want

at this time. Part of you wants to run away from it. This may also be in your relationship, which will put a strain on it. It has somehow lost the romance and it has become too practical and mundane.

Virgo Aug 23 - Sept. 22



You are stressed out at work and it will continue for a while. Watch your

health to ensure that it is not affected by the stress. Spending more time relaxing especially at home may help. Throw a party!

Libra Sept. 23 - Oct 22



This would be a great time to play the field as you are easily fooled by

others right now. As soon as you think a relationship is stable - boom! - something happens to mess it up. This is no time to make a commitment to anyone. Play!

Scorpio Oct 23 - Nov 22



You can find a lot of support from friends right now - especially about the

frustrations and limitations you are experiencing at work. If you are out of work - a friend may be helpful in finding a job.

Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 22



Money is flowing to you right now. This is a good time to focus on what

you need. Save some, too, as work can cause you to feel a little insecure: how long will this job last? Stay focussed on your long-term objectives. Travel can come later.

Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 22

Even though you are



particularly popular and in demand right now, you want some time to yourself. Even

though this is the case, it would be a good idea to take some time for yourself and your mate. Now is not the time to try to win in a war of words.

Aquarius Jan 23 - Feb 22

There may be temptation to



jump right into a relationship at this time - you are certainly thinking about it. It would be a

good idea to take your time as it might be hard on the wallet, not to mention your reputation. Guard both at this time.

Pisces Feb 23 - Mar 22

You are experiencing



popularity right now and loving every moment of it. And one

person in particular causes you to be very emotional. A relationship will also be emotionally charged right

now but it may not last long. You will meet at work but watch the reputation.

A Betting Lady

A little old lady went into the Bank of Canada one day, carrying a bag of money. She insisted that she must speak with the president of the bank to open a savings account because, "It's a lot of money!"

After much hemming and hawing, the bank staff finally ushered her into the president's office (the customer is always right)! The bank president then asked her how much she would like to deposit. She replied, "\$165,000!" and dumped the cash out of her bag onto his desk.

The president was of course curious as to how she came by all this cash, so he asked her, "Ma'am, I'm surprised you're carrying so much cash around. Where did you get this money?" The old lady replied, "I make bets." The president then asked, "Bets? What kind of bets?" The old woman said, "well, for example, I'll bet you \$25,000 that your balls are square." "Sure," said the president, "I'll bet \$25,000 that my balls are not square!" The little old lady then said, "Okay, but since there is a lot of money involved, may I bring my lawyer with me tomorrow at 10:00 A.M. as a witness?" "Sure!" replied the confident president.

That night, the president got very nervous about the bet and spent a long time in front of a mirror checking his balls, turning from side to side, again and again. He thoroughly checked them out until he was sure that there was absolutely no way his balls were square and that he would win the bet. The next morning, at precisely 10:00 A.M., the little old lady appeared with her lawyer at the president's office. She introduced the lawyer to the President and repeated the bet: "\$25,000 says the President's balls are square!"

The president agreed with the bet again and the old lady asked him to drop his pants so they could all see. The president complied. The little old lady peered closely at his balls and then asked if she could feel them. "Well, okay," said the president, "\$25,000 is a lot of money, so I guess you should be absolutely sure." Just then, he noticed that the lawyer was quietly banging his head against the wall. The president asked the old lady, "What the hell's the matter with your lawyer?" She replied, "Nothing, except I bet him \$100,000 that at 10:00 A.M. today, I'd have the Bank of Canada's president's balls in my hand."

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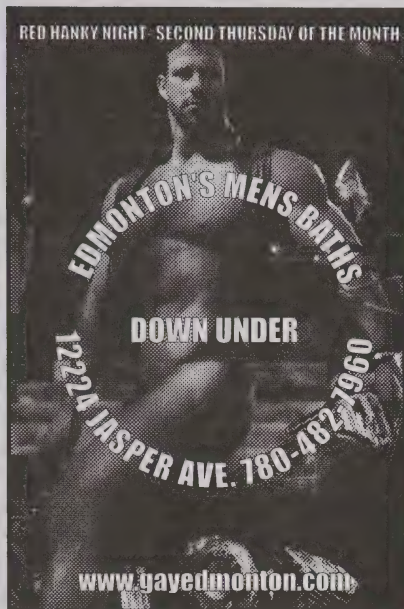
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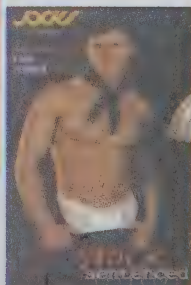
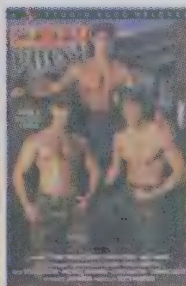
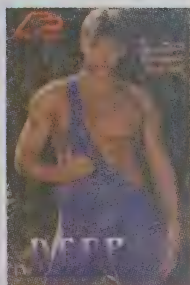
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Box 1024: I'm 5'11", 185lb, brown hair, blue eyes, good-looking, good shape, professionally employed with a good sense of humor. I like to stay active. I'm well-educated, I'm attractive and fairly intelligent. Looking for someone similar, people who like to go out and party, have a good head on their shoulders.

Box 2863: I'm a hot, young, 20 year old, Native male, 5'7", 155lb, dark brown hair, brown eyes. Looking for someone around my own age, knows how to have a good time. Interests include walks, playing in the park, volleyball, watching movies, listening to music and taking on the phone.

long term relationships

Box 1025: I'm 5'11", 185lb, brown hair, blue eyes, good-looking, good shape, professionally employed, good sense of humor, well-educated and I'm attractive. Looking for someone similar 19+. I like to go out and party on the weekends and have a good time.

Box 1106: I'm 6'6", 165lb, black hair, green eyes, typical guy, good-looking, normal guy. I like hanging out, playing some sports, going out once in a while. I work out 3 or 4 times a week, nice body. Want to meet someone who is cool and hot. I'm 28.

Box 1107: Jason, 26. Looking for guys who want honestly, sincerely, trust and a lot of romance. People say I'm romantic to a fault. I don't think so. Looking for the same in another guy. In my spare time I like to go for walks, drive around, go out to the

country, have a picnic, camping, fishing and I also like to sit at home and watch movies sometimes, cuddle on the couch, just holding each other. Or just also, sitting at home listening to CDs with candles on

casual encounters

Box 1015: I'm a young, slim, horny Asian male looking for other white males preferably 40+! I have a message before, but I forgot my password so I was not able to respond to any that I did get some good responses but I'd like to get back to it if you can leave a message.

Box 1029: I'm a 34 year old bi male in the Bonnyville/Cold Lake area. I'm looking for someone to hook up with and possibly have some fun. I'm very discreet and I'm also looking for the other person to also be discreet. I'm in good physical shape.

Box 1043: I'm a 22 year old hot male, very attractive. I'm looking to go out with someone on a casual basis.

Box 1044: This is Peter. I'm 5'10", 220lb, white male, dark hair, mustache, glasses. I'm a first timer on the system. I've never been with a guy before, but I'm extremely bi-curious. Willing to try, I'm 6'10", virgin ass. I can be top or a bottom. I am very oral. I have a couple of hours south of Edmonton, travel there once in a while and if somebody's willing to travel then I let me know and we can set something up.

Box 1052: I'm 22, blond, blue eyes, a nice smooth body. I have a nice round bubble butt, nice hot hole. I like getting fucked. I like giving head and eating cum and satisfying my man. I prefer older

guys to younger guys and I can usually entertain. If you would like me to entertain you, leave me your name and phone number. I'll give you a call and I'll suck you off and you cum in my mouth.

Box 1064: My name is Don. Interested in anyone over 40.

Box 1075: This very clean-cut, masculine, mid-30s guy is seeking another very clean-cut, masculine guy under 40 who is a nonsmoker like myself, who enjoys other things than just casual sex which is fine in my books too, but I am also looking for something that may be a little ongoing from there. Start with that, maybe and develop into something.

You're clean-cut, masculine and under 40 and you've got a head on your shoulders, plus you don't mind a bit of a dry sense of humor. I can be a lot of fun. I'm 5'6", short brown hair, brown eyes and kinda cute in a small package. I'm just an average guy who is looking for the same.

Box 1098: 30 year old male, 6'5", 240lb, dark hair, dark eyes. 9" Smoking males or couples for some casual encounters and hot times. Cannot entertain. I'm new to the scene. Willing to try anything.

leather & SM

Box 1033: Submissive sex toy reading to be dominated. Extreme SM fun, bondage, domination, degradation, exhibitionism, feminization. Turn me into your plaything. Your sex slave. 25, 6', 155lb, light brown hair, attractive, lean. The wilder, the radder, the better.

Box 1087: I'm looking to try things a little out of the ordinary. The kinkier the better. I like musky pits and sweaty bodies. I like to perform water sports and I'm open to try most other things. I'm 31, 5'7", 160lb, decent shape. Looking for a similar guy between 25-35. Tell me about yourself and what you are into and a means of contact.

Box 2912: My name is Dale and I like to suck cock, and I'm so horny, and want to get my ass just fucked hard.

Box 2945: I'm a good-looking, heavy-set submissive bottom boy. I'm 35, 5'7", 260lb, 5" hard, nice set of balls and a nice tight, firm, fuckable ass. I'm looking to learn. I want to be somebody's sex slave. I'm willing to try anything once in order to please: bondage, discipline, water sports, body shaving, you name it.

Box 2964: I'm looking for a guy who wants to get wet and wild. If you want to get real wild, I can get real wild. I love to do nasty things. I love to give blow jobs, you name it, I'm there, baby.

Box 2989: My name's Mike. I'm 20, 5'7", I've got brown hair, brown eyes. I've full-time employed. I'm not into playing head games, but I do like alternative lifestyles, and other sorts.

bears, big men & their admirers

Box 1027: I'm 30, dark hair, dark eyes. I'm a bear, I'm not that hairy, but I am a larger boy. Wanting to get together with anybody for fun times. I like bear admirers, light bodies, young guys. Age, between 18-35.

Box 2930: I'm a mid-30s bear, extremely hairy, extremely horny. I'm 5'10", 220lb, brown hair, blue eyes and a good eye. I've got about a 7" old cock, and I like to suck, get my cock sucked, I like to be in it, I like it play, and I like to get fucked and I also like to fuck.

Box 2924: I'm a 37 year old single white male. I'm tall, short brown hair, blue eyes, clean-shaven, moderate amount of hair on my chest. Professionally employed, I'm in McLennan Alberta, and I'm looking for anyone within the region or around, I go to Grand Prairie, Edmonton. So if you're in the High Prairies, St. Lawrence, let me know.

Box 2977: I'm just looking for some fun, and it doesn't really matter to me about size or anything like that. I just want somebody who's got preferably a sense of humor, and who's like a normal, decent guy, got a brain cell in their head that's working. I'm not into any kind of head games. If you're interested, I'm 33 years old, I can entertain whenever, I've got my own place right downtown. Brown hair, brown eyes, beard and mustache, 250lb, 6-1/2" foot, and I'd really like to hear from you.

transgender

Box 1116: I'm an extremely passable transvestite, 21, 5'6", 135lb, long dark hair and a gilly, smooth body. I have a lot of clothes and I'm seeking other young

passable transvestites or even younger males who enjoy wearing panties, bras and makeup, or who want to learn. Discretion is assured.

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Box 2845: This is Trevor, I'm single, 35, very bi-curious. Looking for a transsexual or passable transvestite for discreet, casual fun times. I'm 6', 170lb and I can entertain or travel. I'm not very experienced, but I'm very eager to learn.

Box 2869: Scott, 45 year old, bi-curious male, 5'2", 110lb. Looking for a transsexual or a very passable transvestite for my first experience. It's been a fantasy all my life, and it's time to fulfill.

Box 2873: I'm a sexy man, small ass, small nose, love to suck cock. Want to suck your cock, you're looking my ass, and licking my balls.

Box 2931: You can call me Claire, and I like to dress up for you, baby, baby, I like to be on bottom, 6'10", I can't entertain but I can travel. On baby, the more the merrier. I'd love to have a gang bang, mmm. You want some adventure.

bisexuals

Box 1026: I'm a 52 year old, married, submissive bi bottom, 5'10", 200lb, 6'10" uncut. Love to get together with a guy or guys on a regular basis into anything that's clean, safe and discreet. I'd prefer someone older or married, but age, race, size or colour is not an issue. You're serious. I'd prefer you be a bottom.

Box 1039: 42, 6'2", 230lb, bisexual and married. Looking for someone who's in the same situation. There's gotta be somebody out there who has the same situation as me.

Box 1041: Bi male, 6', hairless body on bottom, submissive, I like to please and serve my partner. I like doing oral, like playing around, if you have any fantasies we can talk about them, see what we can do. I am attached, so I have to be discreet.

Box 1046: I want to be fucked, slowly hard, erotically. I want someone to take me now.

Box 1109: I'm 38 years old, married, I'd like attractive, clean-shaven, under 30, cock. Would love to get together with

another married man, anywhere from 40-50, and perhaps his wife as well. Very oral, I love to suck and I love to lick. You're interested in relating, getting each other off. I'm very horny, very anxious.

Box 2761: This mature male is seeking male or female friends, who enjoy receiving oral sex. I especially like large ladies. I'm available 7 days a week during days or evenings. I can entertain in my house. My name is John.

Box 2785: Bisexual here, 35, 5'8", 170lb, good-looking. I am very muscular, well-endowed, hairy legs, hairy balls, hairy chest.

Box 2840: Bi-curious guy, mid-30s, half an hour north east of the city, looking to maybe meet with people out there.

Box 2868: I'm a good-looking, 22 year old bisexual guy, tall, attractive, 7" thick cut and shaved. I love oral, kinky guys, and especially older, kinky couples.

Box 2890: Horny, bi, slim, 5'10", 150lb, clean-shaven, safe and discreet. Looking for other discreet encounters with other hot, horny tops.

Box 2909: I'm a slim, discreet guy, tanned, shaved, bi. I'm looking for couples. I enjoy being with couples very very much. Looking for an open-minded, discreet couple or a very open-minded, discreet male. You must be well-endowed, clean and discreet, as I am.

Box 2916: 25, bisexual male, very tight ass. I give really good blow jobs. I'm into threesomes.

Box 2920: Very discreet, straight acting, looking for the same. Also looking for masculine guys. I'm into meeting for casual encounters. I'm into being very oral, rub downs. I'm 6'4", 250lb, husky build, moderately hairy. 52, still alive. Discretion is a must.

Box 2971: I'm an attractive, attached male in good shape, mid-40s, clean, safe, discreet and well-endowed. I'd like to get-together with another male over 30, for clean, safe, discreet encounters on a regular ongoing basis.

bisexuals female

Box 2988: This is Kamea, just turned 18 years old 3 days ago. I have short blond hair, blue eyes, 5'2", looking to meet some girls, if you girls are interested.

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